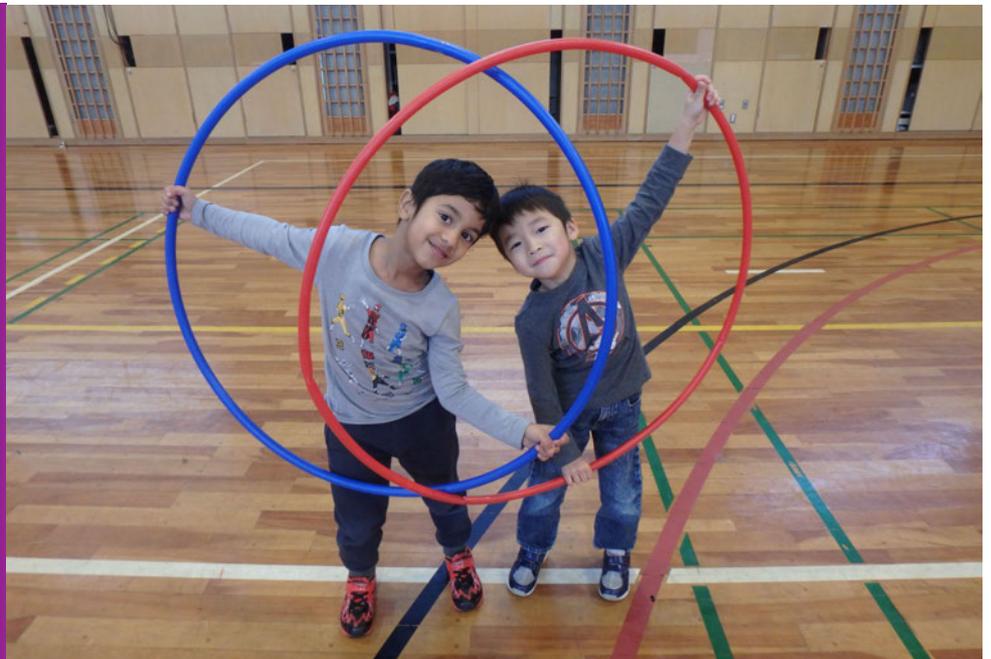


# SOIS Educator

FEBRUARY 18, 2017



## Elementary Physical Education

Elementary students have been very busy this trimester. They have been exploring striking activities such as net play and beginning volleyball skills in the lower grades and Badminton, Bat tennis and Table Tennis in the upper grades. The grades 4 and 5 classes agreed on rules they would play and carried out tournaments to improve their game sense and game play skills. (continued to page 5)

### News from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

I would like to raise awareness of SOIS student dormitory. [Akebono](#) (daybreak) is the name of our residential building located a few minutes' walk from our campus. With a capacity for 34 students, male and female high school students from OIS and SIS live in the facility. For the SIS and OIS students with long commutes from, for example, Nara, Wakayama or Kyoto, living in the dormitories avoids the long daily public transport. Some students move into the dorms when a parent is transferred for work so they can finish the school year or graduate.

SOIS physical education teacher Sagara-sensei is the "dorm teacher" and lives in the dorm along with his wife and daughter, an OIS elementary student. Other personnel include a dormitory mother and assistant. All of them care for the students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except, of course, when they are classes.

OIS started the *Global Futures Program* (GFP) three years ago. GFP is for international students looking for a boarding program, to come and study at OIS. Currently there are six GFP students in Akebono, ranging from grade 10 to grade 12. They have come from a variety of countries and bring to us, a cultural diversity that enriches our school. They benefit also from sharing the dormitory with SIS local students, thus gaining insight into Japanese culture.

Max Sharpe, a grade 11 student from the UK, and Jonathan Kwok, a grade 12 student from Switzerland, enrolled as GFP students after they did a three-week exchange program in Japan with their former schools. The visits sparked an interest in Japanese culture and with the ability to continue their high school in English at an IB World School, as well as live in Japan, the *Global Futures Program* was perfect for them. Max has been pleased with the friendliness and family atmosphere of the school. He is pleased to have been accepted by the people here and has faced no prejudice as a foreigner. Max does miss the

occasional traditional English breakfast of sausages, bacon and eggs with toast, however, but is happy with his time so far in Japan. Part of the dorm experience is learning to live on one's own and it helps them develop maturity and independence. Jonathan sees the need to assimilate to the culture of Japan and it has been an enriching experience for him. His Japanese has improved to the point where he is taking Japanese B in our Diploma Programme, which is usually reserved for more experienced language learners. He is not much of a cook, so he loves the cuisine and restaurants of Minoh and Osaka. The students eat Monday through Friday in the school cafeteria for breakfast, lunch and dinner, but are on their own on the weekends. Max and Jonathon quickly tired of Family Mart fare, and branched out from there. The GFP female students enjoy cooking together on the weekends in Akebono.

OIS families are encouraged to support the GFP students, especially families with high school students. Invitations for a family dinner or

excursion are a nice respite from dormitory life.

New students are always welcome, so if you know of a high school student or a school with an interest in Japan, please encourage them to get in touch and we can send more information. You can read more about the *Global Futures Program* on our [website](#).



Jonathan (left) and Max (right)

## School Calendar

### February

- 20 MYP Personal Project Exhibition
- 20-24 IB Mock Exams
- 20-24 ES Language Week
- 22 MS/HS Winter Concerts (HS chorus, HS concert strings, MS performance strings)
- 22-24 Model United Nation @MBIS
- 23 MS/HS Winter Concerts (MS band, HS concert bands)

### March

- 3 ES Three Way Conferences - ES No Classes
- 6 OIS/SIS HS Student Council Cleaning Day

## Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

With mock exams for seniors, the grade 10 personal project exhibition and planning for camps, February is usually a busy time of year in the middle and high schools. This year it is even more so because we are preparing for our accreditation visit and IB programs re-authorization that will take place next year.

Every five years, a school authorized to offer IB programs has to be [evaluated](#) by the *International Baccalaureate Organization* (IBO) and reaccredited by their accreditation agency, in our case the *Western Association of Schools and Colleges* ([WASC](#)). We will be visited by both groups in February 2018. Even though that sounds like a long way off, most of our work is taking place now. Teachers have been evaluating their planning and teaching, we've been reviewing our policies, committees have been looking at the curriculum, facilities, teacher training, etc. Just about everything the school does is being reviewed with an eye toward ensuring that we are meeting the high standards of both WASC and the IBO. Our recent in-service day on February 10 was spent with teachers working on the different committees they've been assigned to. Soon, we will also be sending a survey to you to get your feedback on how we are doing. It is an important time because in the process of looking at our programs, we will identify areas to make the school stronger and create an action plan to help guide our improvement.

Starting 2:30pm on Monday, February 20, the grade 10 will be exhibiting their Personal Projects. They will be displayed on the second floor near the elevator. Like the Exhibition for the PYP and the Extended Essay for the DP, the [Personal Project](#) is a culminating assessment for the Middle Years Program. The students have been

working on their projects since the spring of 2016 and their work should incorporate many of the skills they have learned in their five years in the MYP. All parents are invited to stop by and see the projects. The students will be there to talk about their projects on Monday afternoon but the exhibition will remain up through the week.

Besides the project exhibition and the senior mock exams, other upcoming events include the winter concerts on February 22 and 23 and camps.

## Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

A new event is launched in the elementary school this month to help us be effective communicators. From 20 February until 24 February we will be sharing the wealth of languages in our community during Language Week. This incorporates International Mother Language Day which the United Nations celebrates on 21 February each year.

As an IB world school we aim to "express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups" (IB learner profile 'communicator' descriptor). All elementary students can communicate in at least two languages and Language Week will help us all learn more.

Leading our inquiry into the range and use of different languages, the Actioneers composed a survey. Questions they created included: How did you learn the languages you know? Which languages do you use with siblings? and What ways help you learn languages? All elementary students have answered the twelve questions with older buddies scribing the responses for the youngest students. The six Actioneers have been studying the data collected from over one

hundred responses. Utilizing their maths and language skills they have gathered valuable information about how we learn and use languages. This will be presented in an assembly on Friday 24 February. They are also keen to extend their inquiry by asking teachers to complete the survey too.

We have discovered that eighteen languages are learned at home with parents as mother tongue before students start school. To showcase these languages we will be holding a Shout Out on Wednesday 22 February in the music room. The song You Give a Little Love will be sung first in English by all the school then two short phrases will be sung in as many of the home languages as possible.

The Actioneers speak six languages between them and have decided to make a poster stating Hello in different languages to place in the genkan to welcome visitors from all over the world. They hope all the community will add lots of languages to this sign.

During the week stories, poems and tongue twisters will be shared in various languages. Different scripts will also be practised as members of our community share their diversity. If you would like to contribute to this event please let me know.

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### **MYP Service by Sarah Wakefield, Service Action Coordinator**

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One of the key components of the MYP (and all IB programs) is service and action. Service and action allow students to make authentic connections between what they are learning, skills they are developing and the real world. It gives students a chance to build independence as well as develop leadership skills and see their actions as they relate to the greater global community.

In the MYP students are required to do between 1-2 service activities and 1-2 action activities per year. The expectations increase as students

advance in recognition of their expanding skills and experiences. It is also expected that students take a leadership role and act independently in grades 9-10 as they prepare to take on their CAS projects in the IB Diploma Program.

Students should seek out service and action activities that appeal to them. One of the benefits I would like to see for students is to spend time finding and seeking out their passions, following new interests and gaining empathy for others. Some examples of service and action activities include (but are in no way limited to): volunteering and or raising funds for ARK (Animal Refuge Kansai), volunteering at the rehabilitation hospital next door to OIS, participating in sports teams, learning a new skill, volunteering or raising funds for Yomawari (homeless organization), assisting in an afterschool activity, participating in community groups or activities, participating in the ASP, etc. A wide variety of activities will qualify for service and action as long as the student is not being paid for their time.

As the Service and Action Coordinator for the MYP I am happy to answer any questions or assist you or your child in finding the right fit for fulfilling their S&A requirements. Please feel free to make an appointment, stop by the library or email me at [swakefield@siosmail.jp](mailto:swakefield@siosmail.jp)

Requirements by grade:

Grades 6-7: 1 service, 1 action

Grade 8: 2 service, 1 action

Grades 9-10: 2 action

## **K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu**

### **FEBRUARY**

20	Mon	chicken pilaf
21	Tue	kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
22	Wed	hamburger steak and sausage saute
23	Thu	curry and rice
24	Fri	potato and meat au gratin
27	Mon	fried salmon
28	Tue	chicken cutlet

### **MARCH**

1	Wed	keema curry and rice
2	Thu	pork fried with almond
3	Fri	chicken baked with pizza sauce
6	Mon	chicken baked with pizza sauce
7	Tue	fried chicken
8	Wed	ramen with soy sauce based soup
9	Thu	spaghetti with meat sauce
10	Fri	rice omelet
13	Mon	chicken cutlet
14	Tue	kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
15	Wed	curry and rice
16	Thu	fried chicken bowl
17	Fri	curry and rice

## **Important 2017-2018 Calendar Dates**

**Fall Trimester:** (Mon) August 28, 2017 - (Tue) November 21, 2017

**Fall Break:** (Wed) November 22, 2017 - (Mon) November 27, 2017

**Winter Trimester:** (Tue) November 28, 2017 - (Fri) March 16, 2018

**Christmas & New Years Holidays:** (Sat) December 16, 2017 - (Mon) January 8, 2018

**Spring Trimester:** (Thu) April 5, 2018 - (Fri) June 29, 2018 (half day)

# Middle & High School Physical Education

Derek Entwistle, PE teacher

This trimester has been an active and busy time for PE students. Grade 6 continues to be an energetic and lively class and have kept Mr Routh on his toes. They have been involved in basketball and track and Field units with swimming coming soon.



MS students have been participating in 4 varied activities including pickle ball, field hockey, swimming and self defense. Students have been introduced to the basic skills, rules and concepts respective to each activity. The shared program has ensured that all MS students have been forging new friendships and enjoying the competitive and cooperative activities offered.



HS students were also busy and have been undertaking their chosen activities for the past 6 weeks. These activities included; field hockey, building on the skills introduced in MS and focusing on team play and creating and

defending "space", water polo in our heated pool, badminton with emphasis on controlling the court, and endurance training. In endurance class, students have learned the principles of training, how to monitor and set a heart rate training zone and have been introduced to different types of cardiovascular training such as interval training, continuous training and fartlek training. Students then set their own goal, wrote their own training programs and have been busy following them. They appear to be enjoying the sense of accomplishment despite a few rather chilly days! Units will be changing soon so make ups, assignments and reflection journals are looming.



SNR classes, for the older SIS students, have included such varied activities as swimming fitness training – where students have written and followed their own programs, field hockey – using the full field, weight training in our heated training room and "new" sports which involved such interesting experiences as ultimate frisbee, touch footy and kin ball. Senior students enjoy their PE classes and are always a pleasure to teach.

Other duties have also kept the PE faculty busy with many PE teachers involved in the coaching of the basketball teams. MYP mandated



moderation of units also kept Mr E and Mr Routh busy but with positive feedback received it's full steam ahead. Despite full classes and the



constant pressure on facilities we forge on. We are all certainly looking forward to some warmer weather! Roll on spring!



# Elementary Physical Education 2nd trimester 2016-17

Leanne Entwistle, PE teacher

(continued from the cover page)

A display from the Elementary Dance Club (Moa, Aimi, Grace, Janina and Noah) was a perfect front loading and interest piquing activity to introduce our *Movement Composition* unit. Students in all classes explored, inquired and experimented about movement pieces; what they were, why people carry these activities out and how can we make an interesting one of our own.



The central idea - *multiple elements can be designed when creating different movements* - was used for the whole school. The students worked together in small groups to firstly decide on the criteria of what needed to be included and what elements we were looking for in a movement sequence. They then collaborated, communicated and experimented, to try and produce an effective movement piece. *Just Dance for Kids* (YouTube) warm ups helped them to focus, get some new ideas and to have fun.

Kindergarten and grade 1 used ribbons and were given the music to dance to. Grades 2 and 3 voted on a song to use and Grades 4 and 5 students brought their own music choices in. They practiced, discussed and were videoed half way through for feedback. They then adjusted their performances where necessary. After some intense practice, they performed to their classmates.

Grade 2, 3, 4 and 5 students assessed each other on the agreed criteria and all groups reflected on their learning and the process of movement composition and choreography.



As Yolin (Gr 1) noted "I learnt that we can't just listen to one person, we must work together." and Yian (Gr 4) noted that "Teamwork is the most important thing when trying to make up a dance." One Grade 5 student, when asked which learner profile attributes or attitudes are needed for us to be successful in movement composition, said "All of them!" So very true!

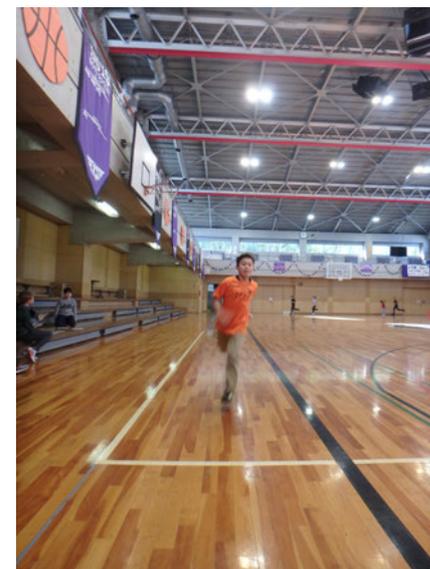
While studying the unit on movement composition, Elementary students also held a fun *Hula Hoop and Jump Rope competition* - with winners hula hooping for as long as possible and the jump ropers, jumping as many times as possible. Photos of the winners are on the notice board outside the small gym.



As an annual Winter event, and part of our studies of Health Related Fitness, the Elementary School Ran to Disneyland (522 Km)



or beyond, for our warm ups in class. We ran various distances around the Gym, did stretches and talked about techniques and benefits. The Grade 1-5 students ran for 8-15 minutes depending on their age as part of the *Big Run*, which is to challenge themselves- to see how long and how far they can run.



This year, just as part of warm ups, the elementary students managed to run **876 Km**, which is past Sendai in Tohoku! This is a school record!

As you can see we have a varied and exciting time inquiring, co-operating and having fun in elementary physical education!

## **Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER**

### **Sabers Athletics Website**

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp>

### **Sabers Athletics Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SabersAthletics/>

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SEASON II CONTINUES**

The winter sports season II for middle school student-athletes continues. Both the girls basketball team and boys soccer team have large squads and look strong again this year, with games already played against WJAA opponents. All players on the MS teams have seen game action, from the A teams all the way through to the beginners. Be sure to watch the boys soccer team as it competes in the annual Sabers Invitational futsal tournament here at SOIS on February 18. Details are available on our [Athletics website here](#). And good luck to the MS teams as they work toward their WJAA tournaments in early March.

### **SABERS GIRLS 2<sup>ND</sup>, BOYS 3<sup>RD</sup>, MATH MANIA TEAM 3<sup>RD</sup>**

Thirty Sabers students participated in four AISA events in Osaka, Yokohama, and Seoul, February 2–5, 2017. Congratulations to all Sabers basketball players, mathematicians, and student leaders, and a big thank you to the coaches.

### **AISA math mania and leadership**

Ten SOIS students traveled to Korea International School (KIS) in South Korea to participate in two AISA events: a math mania competition and a student leadership conference. Six Sabers “mathletes” – Nanami Hariguchi, Rina Kawamura, Kaya Frese, Takuma Notsu, Yumiko Tajiri, and Ella Jiang – competed against math students from the other four AISA schools.



AISA math mania team

Also, four SOIS student council members – Jenifer Menezes, Anna Kim, Airu Mukaiyama, and Miki Fujito – took part in a collaborative conference in which they explored international leadership issues and shared common student leadership experiences with their AISA counterparts. These were great events for our students. Special thanks to the teachers who prepared the students – Mr. Bertman, Mr. Welburn, Mr. Sheriff, and Baba-sensei – and to Mr. Bertman and Mr. Welburn for chaperoning.



AISA leadership team

### **AISA basketball, girls**

Coach Sagara and Coach Hirai and the Sabers girls basketball team competed in the annual AISA basketball championship tournament at Yokohama International School where the girls battled to an impressive 2nd place finish.



AISA girls basketball

SIS seniors Rio Kurosaki and Leona Benfield, playing in their final Sabers basketball games, were named to the all-tournament team as was SIS junior Nanako Ogura. SIS seniors Nano Yokoyama and China Mori also played in their final basketball games in the black and purple.

### **AISA basketball, boys**

Coach Heimer and Coach Routh stayed here in Osaka as SOIS hosted the AISA boys basketball tournament. The Sabers played well in all games, losing only in the semifinals to eventual champion YIS, and finished 3rd.



AISA boys basketball

OIS seniors Aki Shigeyama and Leo Roberts were named to the all-tournament team. Special mention goes to four OIS seniors, Aki Shigeyama, Leo Roberts, Taizo, Heimer, Leslie Tokai, and to one SIS senior, Akira Morioka, who played in their final Sabers basketball games and who, collectively, represent nearly 30 years of Sabers basketball experience, which will be sorely missed.

### **NEW HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SEASONS**

Soccer, swimming, badminton, softball – all these teams are up and running. The girls soccer team, coached by Mr. Frater and Kono-sensei, and the boys, coached by Mr. Haske and Mr. Entwistle, have already played matches. Swimming (Coach Bertman, Coach Kano) and badminton (Coach Hasegawa and Coach Lewis) are busy practicing. And softball (Coach Hirai, Coach Hikosaka) have begun early-season practice. Good luck to all Sabers teams.

### **THANK YOU**

As always, thank you for your support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact me any time: in the AD office, room A-240, near the business office; by telephone at 072-727-2137; or via e-mail at [pheimer@senri.ed.jp](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp).

## Rehearsals from the 2017 ASP: *Little Shop of Horrors*

Here are some photos from rehearsals for the show, taken in late January and early February.



Photos from the actual shows will be featured in the next *Educator*.

## KG Update

This fall the university introduced a new special project-based learning (PBL) practicum subject called, "Thinking about Nuclear Power from Fukushima". In October, KG university students taking this subject did field work in Fukushima. They toured the TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station and other areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. They met the workers decontaminating the site and well as touring the ghost town of Tomioka. One of the students remarked, "Before visiting Fukushima, to me it seemed to be someone else's problem but through this course, I now see that it is my problem too as a fellow Japanese." KGU President Osamu Murata felt the need for students to consider the future of nuclear power. Professor Nobutaka Murao reported from Fukushima in the past and he along with others at KGU, led the course.

Professor of Business Administration, Junya Ishibuchi recently won the Best Paper award by the Japan Marketing Academy. His research showed that consumers who feel enjoyment when they shop because of the store environment, do more "creative purchases". This means while in the store, they purchase more products they remembered or products related to their original purchase. The pleasant atmosphere generates more long-term sales and ultimately more stable revenue. This is opposite of the model of winding people through stores to stimulate impulse purchases. It is good for the short-term but not the long-term.

The foundation also announced the retirements of employees, one of who is Senri International School mathematics teacher Hiroshi Baba. Baba-sensei runs the triathlon club which many OIS students have participated in over the years. He leaves in March after 24 years of SOIS service. Baba-sensei is also the author of two books, including his latest, "Math in the Media".



The next *Educator* will be published on Saturday 11 March. In the meantime, you can find past editions of the *Educator*, *Interculture* and *Tango* in the [newsletters section](#) of the downloads page on our website.



### Important Numbers

Bill Kralovec, head  
072-727-5080  
bkralovec@senri.ed.jp

Kurt Mecklem,  
MS/HS principal/ IBMYP  
coordinator  
072-727-5050  
kmecklem@senri.ed.jp

Carolyne Marshall,  
ES principal / IBPYP coordinator  
072-727-5050  
cmarshall@senri.ed.jp

Melissa Lamug, counselor  
072-727-5061  
mlamug@senri.ed.jp

Mike McGill, admissions  
director  
072-727-5070  
mmcgrill@senri.ed.jp

Steve Lewis, business manager  
072-727-5090  
slewis@senri.ed.jp

Miyuki Endo, IBDP coordinator  
072-727-5050  
mendo@senri.ed.jp

Peter Heimer, activities director  
072-727-2137  
pheimer@senri.ed.jp

Natsuko Inoue, school nurse  
072-727-5050  
ninoue@senri.ed.jp

Student attendance  
072-727-2305